



★ PART TWO ★

*Current Asian and Pacific Islander
American Members*

★ INTRODUCTION ★

Profiles of Current Members

More than a century ago, Delegate Robert W. Wilcox of Hawaii became the first of 60 Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) to serve in the U.S. Congress.¹ The history of APAs in Congress contains many of the same themes that resonate in the larger chronicle of American democracy: a pioneering spirit, times of struggle and perseverance, the gradual attainment of power, advancement through unity, and remarkable legislative achievements.

The 18 APAs (13 Representatives, two Delegates, and three Senators) who serve in the 115th Congress (2017–2019) have inherited that long historical legacy that extends back to the first Hawaiian Delegates and Philippine Resident Commissioners. As the largest group of Asian and Pacific Islander legislators to serve simultaneously in the history of the institution, this cohort accounts for nearly one-third of all APAs who have ever held seats in Congress. The majority of these legislators first took office after 2013.

The biographical profiles of these current Members, like those of their predecessors, contain information on precongressional careers, first House or Senate campaigns, committee and leadership positions, and legislative achievements. Because these Members are incumbent, comprehensive accounts of their congressional careers must await a later date. Their profiles are arranged in two distinct groups. First, the 13 Asian Pacific Americans who have served two terms or more in Congress are arranged in alphabetical order and profiled in 750-word entries. Second, the five freshman APA Members of the 115th Congress appear at the end of this section and are profiled in résumé format entries. All current Members were given the opportunity to review their profiles before the book was published.

Among the individuals profiled in this section is Representative Robert C. (Bobby) Scott of Virginia, whose 24 years of congressional service make him the longest-serving APA among the group of current Members. Also included in this section is Mazie K. Hirono of Hawaii, who served three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives (2007–2013) and then won election to the U.S. Senate seat once held by Daniel K. Akaka. Hirono is the first Asian-American woman to serve in the Senate and one of only a handful of APAs who have served in both chambers. Since Hirono won election to the Senate, two other APA women have joined her: Tammy Duckworth of Illinois and Kamala Harris of California.

As these members leave Congress, their profiles will be updated in the online version of *Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Congress*—available at <http://history.house.gov>—to reflect a more complete account of their congressional careers and their contributions to the rich history of Asian Pacific Americans in Congress.

NOTES

1 The closing date for this volume was July 1, 2017.

KEY TO MEMBER TITLES



SENATOR



REPRESENTATIVE



TERRITORIAL DELEGATE/
RESIDENT COMMISSIONER



Image courtesy of the Member

Ami Bera 1965–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE 2013–
DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

In 2012 Ami Bera became the third Indian American elected to Congress when he defeated a longtime incumbent. Trained as a physician, he focuses on health care legislation. “My parents emigrated here from India in the 1950s with very little but the dream of a better life,” Bera said. “I grew up believing America was a land of opportunity, where if you worked hard and played by the rules, you could reach your full potential.”¹

Ami Bera was born on March 2, 1965, in Los Angeles, California. His mother was a public school teacher, and his father was an engineer and small-business owner.² Bera earned a bachelor of science degree in biological sciences from the University of California, Irvine, in 1987 and earned an MD degree from the same university in 1991.

Bera has been a physician for more than 25 years and practices internal medicine. He also served as the part-time medical director of care management for a seven-hospital system in the Sacramento area in the late 1990s. Bera was the chief medical officer for Sacramento County from 1999 to 2004. He also taught at the University of California, Davis, School of Medicine and served as associate dean from 2004 to 2008. Bera is married to Dr. Janine Bera, and the couple has one daughter, Sydra.

Bera made an unsuccessful attempt in 2010 to unseat Republican Congressman Dan Lungren in a close race that drew national attention.³ In 2012 Bera challenged Lungren again in a new district that encompassed the eastern Sacramento suburbs, home to tech and health care businesses.⁴ In California’s new open primary, in which all candidates run in the primary and the top two vote-getters, regardless of party, compete in the general election, Bera trailed Lungren by 13 percentage points.⁵ Endorsed by former President William J. (Bill) Clinton and the *Sacramento Bee*, Bera touted his long experience in health care and efforts to defend women’s health and reproductive rights.⁶ The race was too close to call on Election Day and remained undecided for more than a week. On November 16, 2012, Lungren conceded.⁷ The final tally put Bera up with 52 percent of the vote. Bera won re-election in 2014 with a 50.4 percent majority and in 2016 with 51 percent.⁸ Bera has served on the Foreign Affairs and the Science, Space, and Technology Committees in the 113th, 114th, and 115th Congresses (2013–2019).

Bera’s primary legislative focus is general access to medical care. He has opposed cuts to Medicare and advocated increasing the number of doctors in

the Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system, noting that veterans have waited up to two months for appointments. “Now, these are men and women who stepped up to answer the call to duty, to protect our freedoms ... and we need to give them that same duty when they return,” he said on the House Floor. “You have to have the necessary health care professionals that can address these needs in a timely manner.”⁹

Bera introduced legislation easing immigration restrictions for doctors and medical students, expanding health savings account benefits for children under age 27, and implementing best practices and standards in VA facilities.¹⁰ His first bill in Congress recognized National Minority Cancer Awareness Week. “Despite medical advances that save many lives in our country,” he noted, “there’s been limited progress in ending the racial and ethnic disparities in health.”¹¹ He also sponsored the Dispose Responsibly of Your Pills (DROP) Act to make more disposal sites available for unwanted prescription medication.¹²

Bera has been an outspoken proponent of women’s health, including protecting a woman’s right to make reproductive choices. He submitted the Women’s Preventive Health Awareness Campaign Act in direct response to the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which prohibited late-term abortion.¹³ Bera’s bill directed the Secretary of Health and Human Services to implement a public outreach campaign for women’s preventive health.¹⁴ He invoked his experience as a medical doctor on this issue, noting his bill was “not only smart medicine; it will get to the core of empowering patients, of empowering women and of empowering families to make the decisions that best fit within the context of their lives.”¹⁵

Bera also sought aid to alleviate California’s drought in 2014, noting that Folsom Lake, a water supply for many of his constituents, had nearly emptied.¹⁶ He opposed a bill seeking to divert water to southern California by repealing environmental regulations protecting fish runs. He noted that the drought could not pit sections of the state against each other and supported later legislation that balanced long- and short-term drought solutions.¹⁷

NOTES

- 1 “Ami Bera Sworn into 113th Congress,” 3 January 2013, States News Service.
- 2 *Congressional Record*, House, 113th Cong., 1st sess. (20 March 2013): H1711.
- 3 *Almanac of American Politics, 2014* (Washington, DC: National Journal Inc., 2013): 157.
- 4 *Politics in America, 2014* (Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2013): 84; *Almanac of American Politics, 2014*: 156.
- 5 Torey Van Oot, “Lungren-Bera Rematch Part of Democratic Effort to Retake House,” 9 June 2012, *Sacramento Bee*: A3.
- 6 *Almanac of American Politics, 2014*: 157; Laurel Rosenhall, “Capitol Alert: Bill Clinton Stumps for California Dems in Tight Congressional Races,” 9 October 2012, *Sacramento Bee*: n.p.; Torey Van Oot, “Capitol Alert: Ami Bera Puts Focus on Women’s Health Issues in Final Stretch,” 30 October 2012, *Sacramento Bee*: n.p.
- 7 “Rep. Lungren Concedes Defeat in Calif.,” 17 November 2012, United Press International.
- 8 Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://history.house.gov/Institution/Election-Statistics/Election-Statistics/>.
- 9 *Congressional Record*, House, 113th Cong., 2nd sess. (25 July 2015): H6849.
- 10 H.R. 2484, 113th Cong. (2013); H.R. 4951, 113th Cong. (2014); H.R. 1272, 114th Cong. (2015); H.R. 5465, 113th Cong. (2014); H.R. 3951, 114th Cong. (2015).
- 11 Remarks made in recognition of National Minority Health Month, see *Congressional Record*, House, 113th Cong., 1st sess. (25 April 2013): H2313; for the designation of National Minority Cancer Awareness Week, see H. Res. 154, 113th Cong. (2013).
- 12 H.R. 2463, 114th Cong. (2015).
- 13 H.R. 2457, 113th Cong. (2013). The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Act was submitted as H.R. 1797, 113th Cong. (2013) and H.R. 36, 114th Cong. (2015).
- 14 H.R. 2457, 113th Cong. (2013); H.R. 2355, 114th Cong. (2015).
- 15 *Congressional Record*, House, 113th Cong., 1st sess. (18 June 2013): H3691.
- 16 *Congressional Record*, House, 113th Cong., 2nd sess. (5 February 2014): H1621.
- 17 *Congressional Record*, House, 113th Cong., 2nd sess. (4 February 2014): H1552.



Image courtesy of the Member

Judy Chu 1953–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE 2009–
DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

The first Chinese-American woman elected to Congress in history, Judy Chu has been a cross-ethnic coalition builder throughout her career.

Judy Chu was born in Los Angeles, California, on July 7, 1953, to Judson and May Chu. Her father, a second-generation Chinese American, was a radio technician, and her mother, a war bride from China, worked in a cannery and as a stay-at-home mom.¹ Chu grew up in a predominantly African-American neighborhood in south Los Angeles.² She graduated from Buchser High School in Santa Clara, California, in 1970.

Chu earned a BA in mathematics from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), in 1974, an MA degree in 1977, and a PhD degree in 1979 from the California School of Professional Psychology, Los Angeles. She was a faculty member of UCLA's Asian American Studies Center before becoming a professor of psychology at East Los Angeles College in 1988. Chu is married to Michael Eng, a lawyer and elected official.

Chu entered politics to oppose an “English-only” anti-immigrant movement in Monterey Park in the 1980s.³ She was elected to the Garvey School Board of Education in 1985. In 1988 she won election to the Monterey Park City Council and served as mayor three times during her 13-year tenure. Chu won a California state assembly seat in 2001, earning a reputation for bridging ethnic lines.⁴ In 2006 Chu won a seat on the California Board of Equalization, the state's elected tax authority.

In February 2009, Congresswoman Hilda Solis resigned from the House of Representatives to serve as President Barack Obama's Secretary of Labor. Her district encompassed the eastern edge of Los Angeles with a majority-Hispanic, working-class electorate that was nearly two-fifths foreign born.⁵

After announcing her candidacy, Chu faced 11 opponents in the open primary. With key endorsements from the local Democratic Party and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Chu won a 32 percent plurality. She won the general election in July 2009 with 62 percent.⁶ In 2010 she was re-elected with a 71 percent majority. After reapportionment reshaped her district, Chu was re-elected in the next three general elections with 64, 59, and 67 percent of the vote.⁷

Chu was sworn in to the 111th Congress (2009–2011) on July 16, 2009. She served on the Education and Labor, Judiciary, and Oversight and Government Reform Committees. In the 112th Congress (2011–2013), she

remained on the Judiciary Committee and picked up a seat on the Small Business Committee. Chu was also elected to chair the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus starting in the 112th Congress.⁸ In the 115th Congress (2017–2019), Chu earned a seat on the prestigious Ways and Means Committee.

One of Chu's first priorities was a congressional resolution of regret for the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. In 2012 Chu succeeded: both the House and Senate unanimously passed a resolution to "acknowledge the injustice of the Chinese Exclusion Act, express regret for the lives it destroyed, and make sure that the prejudice that stained our Nation is never repeated again."⁹

Chu has championed greater protections for the San Gabriel Mountains. In June 2014, she introduced the San Gabriel National Recreation Area Act (H.R. 4858) to declare large portions of the mountains a national recreation area. She followed that bill with a request for President Obama to take executive action. In October 2014, President Obama responded by declaring much of the area a national monument. She introduced subsequent bills to further expand the national monument designation.

As Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Access to Capital, Chu worked to help entrepreneurs. Chu's bill, the Commercial Real Estate and Economic Development Act (H.R. 2266), passed in 2015. The legislation reintroduced the Small Business Administration's Section 504 refinancing to help small businesses refinance old, expensive real estate debt at current low interest rates.

In 2011 Chu's nephew committed suicide after being hazed while serving with the Marines in Afghanistan.¹⁰ In 2016 she successfully included language into the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act that requires improved anti-hazing reporting and policies.

As the representative of a large immigrant and minority constituency, Chu brought national attention to the need for comprehensive immigration reform. In the 113th Congress (2013–2015), Chu was one of the five original House cosponsors of H.R. 15, a comprehensive immigration reform bill. Despite the bill's bipartisan support in the House and Senate, the Speaker would not bring it to the floor for a vote. However, Chu has continued her efforts to bring about immigration reform.

NOTES

- 1 "Judy Chu," in Don T. Nakanishi and Ellen D. Wu eds., *Distinguished Asian American Political and Governmental Leaders* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2002): 39; *Politics in America, 2012* (Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2011): 127.
- 2 "Judy Chu," in Nakanishi and Wu eds., *Distinguished Asian American Political and Governmental Leaders*: 39; Jean Merl, "Judy Chu's Victory Makes History," 16 July 2009, *Los Angeles Times*: A3.
- 3 *Politics in America, 2012*: 126.
- 4 Richard Winton, "Chu is Known as a Bridge Builder," 18 May 2001, *Los Angeles Times*: 4; Stephanie Chavez, "Assemblywoman Praised for Reaching Across Ethnic Divide," 1 July 2001, *Los Angeles Times*: 3.
- 5 *Politics in America, 2012*: 126.
- 6 Evelyn Larrubia, "Big Names in Race to Replace Solis," 23 December 2008, *Los Angeles Times*: 3; Jean Merl, "Party Endorses Chu," 19 April 2009, *Los Angeles Times*: A36; Jean Merl, "Endorsements May Sway Key Latino Base," 17 May 2009, *Los Angeles Times*: A38; Josh Kurtz, "Chu Tops Field in Special Election to Replace Solis," 20 May 2009, *Roll Call*: n.p.; Carla Hall, "32nd Congressional District; Two Chus Are Among Choices," 21 May 2009, *Los Angeles Times*: 12; Rebecca Kimitch, "Judy Chu Wins 32nd Congressional District Race," 15 July 2009, *San Gabriel Valley Tribune* (CA): n.p.
- 7 *Almanac of American Politics, 2014* (Washington, DC: National Journal Inc., 2013): 216. Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://history.house.gov/Institution/Election-Statistics/Election-Statistics/>.
- 8 Rebecca Kimitch, "Judy Chu Off to Washington after Election Win," 15 July 2009, *Pasadena Star-News*: n.p.; Garrison Nelson and Charles Stewart III, *Committees in the U.S. Congress, 1993–2010* (Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press, 2011): 636; *Congressional Directory*, various editions.
- 9 H. Res. 683, 112th Cong. (2012); *Congressional Record*, House, 112th Cong., 1st sess. (1 June 2011): H3810.
- 10 Sarah D. Wire, "Rep. Judy Chu's Nephew Took His Own Life After Military Hazing; Now She's Seeking Justice for Him and Other Families," 10 May 2016, *Los Angeles Times*, <http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-ca-chu-military-hazing-20160510-snap-story.html> (accessed 21 June 2017).



Image courtesy of the Member

Tammy Duckworth 1968–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE 2013–2017
UNITED STATES SENATOR 2017–
DEMOCRAT FROM ILLINOIS

Senator Tammy Duckworth is an Iraq War veteran, Purple Heart recipient, and former Assistant Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). She was among the first Army women to fly combat missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Duckworth served in the Reserve Forces for 23 years before retiring from military service in 2014 at the rank of lieutenant colonel. She was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2016 after representing Illinois's Eighth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives for two terms.¹

Duckworth earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Hawaii and a Master of Arts in international affairs from George Washington University. Following graduation, Duckworth moved to Illinois to pursue a PhD in political science at Northern Illinois University. She worked at NIU's School of Nursing, researching public health and environmental causes of cancer and later worked for Rotary International.

In 2004 Duckworth was deployed to Iraq as a Black Hawk helicopter pilot for the Illinois Army National Guard. On November 12, 2004, her helicopter was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, and Duckworth lost her legs and partial use of her right arm.

Duckworth spent the next year recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where she quickly became an advocate for her fellow soldiers and testified before Congress about caring for veterans and wounded warriors. Following her recovery, she became director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs. She worked to create a tax credit for employers who hired veterans, establish a first-in-the-nation 24/7 veterans' crisis hotline, and develop innovative programs to improve veterans' access to housing and health care.

In 2009 President Barack Obama named Duckworth as Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs. In that role, Duckworth coordinated a joint initiative with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to end veteran homelessness. She also created the Office of Online Communications to improve the VA's accessibility and worked to address the unique challenges that Native American and female veterans face.

Since her recovery, Duckworth has resumed flying as a civilian pilot and fulfilled a promise she made at Walter Reed by completing several marathons. In her spare time, she volunteers at local food pantries and enjoys couponing and flea markets. In 2015 Duckworth completed her PhD in human services at Capella University.

In the House, Duckworth advocated for working families and job creation, introducing bills such as the Friendly Airports for Mothers Act to ensure new mothers have access to safe and clean lactation rooms in airports, which passed the Senate with bipartisan support. She introduced the In the Red Act to reduce student debt, the Get the Lead Out Act to keep America's drinking water safe, and bipartisan legislation to help close the skills gap and help people find good-paying jobs. Duckworth also co-sponsored the No Budget, No Pay Act, which would ensure members of Congress get paid only if they pass a budget.

She served on the House Armed Services Committee and the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, where she was Ranking Member of the Transportation and Public Assets Subcommittee. She introduced and helped pass several important policies on these committees, including the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act to help reduce suicide among veterans and improve VA mental health services and the Troop Talent Act, which helps returning veterans find jobs in the private sector. She also cut waste and fraud at the Pentagon and throughout government, including passing a common-sense provision to reduce redundancy in armed forces uniforms that the nonpartisan U.S. Government Accountability Office found will save taxpayers more than \$4 billion over five years.

In the Senate, Duckworth serves on several committees that give her an important platform to advocate for Illinois's working families and entrepreneurs: Environment and Public Works; Energy and Natural Resources; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and Small Business and Entrepreneurship. As Senator, she advocates for practical, common-sense solutions needed to move the country forward such as rebuilding crumbling infrastructure, keeping water systems safe and lead-free, growing manufacturing jobs while supporting minority-owned small businesses, investing in communities that have been ignored, and making college more affordable. Duckworth continues her lifelong mission to support and protect veterans while ensuring America stands fully behind the troops its sends into danger overseas.

Duckworth lives in Hoffman Estates with her husband, Bryan, an Army cyber warrant officer, and their daughter Abigail.

NOTES

- 1 "About Tammy," on Senator Tammy Duckworth's official website, accessed June 1, 2017, <https://www.duckworth.senate.gov/content/about-tammy>.



Image courtesy of the Member

Tulsi Gabbard 1981–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE 2013–
DEMOCRAT FROM HAWAII

As one of the first female combat veterans elected to Congress, Tulsi Gabbard entered the U.S. House of Representatives with a high profile that quickly earned her prominent committee and party positions. Gabbard developed a reputation for reaching across the aisle and advocating for military servicemembers and veterans. “People at home don’t care whether you’ve got a D or R in front of your name,” she said. “They want you to get things done.”¹

Tulsi Gabbard was born in American Samoa on April 12, 1981, the daughter of teachers and entrepreneurs, Mike and Carol Gabbard. As a teenager, she cofounded with her father the Healthy Hawai‘i Coalition, a nonprofit organization focused on educating children about clean water and protecting Hawaii’s environment.² In 2002, at age 21, Gabbard became the youngest woman elected to the Hawaii house of representatives.³

Gabbard enlisted in the Hawaii Army National Guard in April 2003.⁴ Although she was not on the mandatory deployment roster, Gabbard left her re-election campaign and volunteered to deploy to Iraq with her unit, the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, so she could stand alongside her fellow soldiers. She served a 12-month tour at Logistical Support Area Anaconda in Iraq, working in a field medical unit.

After returning from her deployment, Gabbard rejoined her nonprofit and led an investigation into beach pollution.⁵ In 2006 U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka’s office hired her as a legislative aide. She completed Officer Candidate School at the Lyman Ward Military Academy in Alabama in 2007, becoming the first woman to earn the distinguished honor graduate title in the academy’s 50-year history. In 2009 Gabbard again voluntarily deployed with her unit to Kuwait, where she served as a military police platoon leader and trainer for the Kuwait National Guard’s counterterrorism unit.

In that same year, Gabbard completed a bachelor’s degree in international business through Hawaii Pacific University. In 2010 she was elected to the Honolulu city council, where she served as chair of safety and government affairs and vice chairman of budget.⁶

In May 2011, Gabbard announced her candidacy for Hawaii’s 2nd Congressional District that encompassed suburban and rural Oahu and all the neighboring islands. She entered a six-person Democratic primary race led by former Honolulu Mayor Mufi F. Hannemann. Gabbard attracted support from progressive and environmental organizations.⁷ She won the primary by more than

20 percent.⁸ She highlighted President Barack Obama's support for veterans during a prominent slot at the 2012 Democratic National Convention.⁹ Gabbard cruised to victory against Republican opponent Kawika Crowley, garnering 79 percent of the vote.¹⁰

The 113th Congress (2013–2015) featured a record number of Congresswomen. Gabbard stood out as one of the first female combat veterans elected to Congress and as the first practicing Hindu elected to Congress. She chose to take her oath of office on the *Bhagavad-Gita As It Is*.¹¹ Democratic leadership chose Gabbard as vice chair of the Democratic National Committee. She also obtained assignments to three committees: Armed Services, Homeland Security, and Foreign Affairs. In the 113th Congress, she left Homeland Security to serve on the Armed Services Committee, reflecting her own military service and the large military presence in her district.

In her first term, Gabbard introduced the Helping Heroes Fly Act (H.R. 1344) to improve the treatment of severely injured and disabled veterans going through airport security. She noted the everyday hardship this caused and stressed “the difference between a smooth and dignified screening experience or one that is filled with frustration, shame, and pain” was important, especially for injured veterans. President Obama signed the bill into law in 2013.¹²

She joined the bipartisan outcry against “deep and systemic issues” in the Department of Veterans Affairs, requesting an executive order allowing veterans to use their veteran IDs to get private medical care.¹³ She also called for reforms to how the military handles sexual assault cases, claiming legislation would “stem the growing cancer of sexual assault on men and women in the military.”¹⁴

Gabbard ran unopposed in the August 2014 primary. She again defeated the GOP challenger, Crowley, with roughly 79 percent of the vote. In the 2016 general election, Gabbard won with 76 percent of the vote. In April 2015, Gabbard married cinematographer Abraham Williams.¹⁵

Echoing her opposition to the Iraq War and the overthrow of Libya's Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, Gabbard has strongly opposed U.S. military action to overthrow Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in the Syrian civil war. In her second term, she introduced H.R. 4108 to prohibit the use of U.S. funds for the provision of assistance to Syrian opposition groups and individuals with that aim.¹⁶

NOTES

- 1 John Powers, “Making a Splash: Is Tulsi Gabbard the Next Democratic Party Star?” 25 June 2013, *Vogue*, <http://www.vogue.com/865223/making-a-splash-is-tulsi-gabbard-the-next-democratic-party-star/> (accessed 29 February 2016).
- 2 Lynda Arakawa, “State's Political Balance Shifting in Legislature,” 6 November 2002, *Honolulu Advertiser*: 1A.
- 3 Kevin Dayton, “Lingle Spent \$5.4M to Win Governor's Race,” 6 December 2002, *Honolulu Advertiser*: 1B.
- 4 Espanol Zenaida Serrano, “State Legislator ‘Honored’ to Serve,” 20 April 2003, *Honolulu Advertiser*: 25A.
- 5 Eloise Aguiar, “Sand Clean at 4 Sites, Test Finds,” 22 April 2006, *Honolulu Advertiser*: 1B.
- 6 Rob Shikina, “Medical Waste Continues to Wash Up at West Oahu Beaches,” 16 January 2011, *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*: n.p.
- 7 B. J. Reyes, “Governor's Wife, Other Women Back Gabbard,” 15 April 2012, *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*: n.p.; B. J. Reyes, “Democratic Primary Will Likely Determine House Race,” 25 June 2012, *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*: n.p.
- 8 Gordon Pang, “Gabbard Upsets Hannemann,” 11 August 2012, *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*: n.p.
- 9 “Gabbard at Dem Convention: Obama Best for Vets,” 5 September 2012, *Associated Press*.
- 10 Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://history.house.gov/Institution/Election-Statistics/Election-Statistics/>.
- 11 Matthew Brown, “Tulsi Gabbard, First Hindu in Congress, to Take Oath over the Bhagavad Gita,” 12 November 2012, *Deseret Morning News*: n.p.
- 12 *Congressional Record*, House, 113th Cong., 1st sess. (21 May 2013): H2819–2825; Helping Heroes Fly Act, Public Law 113-27, 127 Stat. 503 (2013).
- 13 Chris D'Angelo, “Vets ‘We Have to Do Better’; Congresswoman Gabbard Says Veterans Deserve Immediate Care,” 3 June 2014, *The Garden Island*: n.p.; Janis L. Magin, “Hawaii Veterans Have Longest Waits for Appointments as New Patients,” 9 June 2014, *Pacific Business News*: n.p.
- 14 Stewart Powell, “Military Sexual-Assault Bills Compete; Senators' Vote on 2 Measures Approaching,” 6 March 2014, *San Antonio Express-News*: A7.
- 15 Emmarie Huettelman, “Tulsi Gabbard, Rising Democratic Star From Hawaii, Makes Mark on Party by Defying It,” 28 November 2015, *New York Times*, <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/29/us/politics/tulsi-gabbard-rising-democratic-star-from-hawaii-makes-mark-on-party-by-defying-it.html> (accessed 29 February 2016); Helena Andrews-Dyer, “Tulsi Gabbard's Getting Married Today,” 9 April 2015, *Washington Post*: n.p.; Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present.”
- 16 See Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, “Reps. Tulsi Gabbard, Austria, Scott Introduce Legislation to End Illegal War to Overthrow Syrian Government of Assad,” press release, 19 November 2015, <http://gabbard.house.gov/index.php/press-releases/520-reps-tulsi-gabbard-austin-scott-introduce-legislation-to-end-illegal-u-s-war-to-overthrow-syrian-government-of-assad>.



Image courtesy of the Member

Colleen Hanabusa

1951–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE 2011–2015; 2016–
DEMOCRAT FROM HAWAII

A prominent Hawaiian Democrat and labor lawyer, Colleen Hanabusa worked her way to the forefront of Democratic politics in the state through 12 years in the Hawaii senate. Hanabusa first won election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2010 and returned in a 2016 special election following the death of Representative Mark Takai.

Colleen Hanabusa was born on May 4, 1951, in Honolulu, Hawaii, to June and Isao Hanabusa, gas station proprietors in Waianae.¹ She graduated from Honolulu's St. Andrew's Priory School in 1969, before attending the University of Hawaii in Manoa. There she earned bachelor's degrees in economics and sociology in 1973, a master's degree in sociology in 1975, and a law degree in 1977. Hanabusa spent 20 years in private practice. Her rising profile as a labor lawyer led to a successful campaign for a state senate seat in 1998. She served as president of the senate from 2007 until 2010 and was the first woman to lead either chamber of the Hawaiian legislature.²

Hanabusa first ran for national office in a 2003 House of Representatives special election, when she lost the Democratic nomination for an open seat in the 2nd District, centered on downtown Honolulu. She then competed for the same House seat in 2006 but again lost in the Democratic primary.³ In May 2010, Hanabusa ran in the 1st District race to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Representative Neil Abercrombie. In a winner-take-all special election, conducted solely by mail-in ballots, with no primary and no runoff, Hanabusa faced Republican candidate Charles Djou and former Democratic Representative Ed Case. Hanabusa and Case split the Democratic vote, while Honolulu city councilman Djou garnered a winning plurality of 39 percent.⁴

In the 2010 general election rematch months later, the competition between the Djou and Hanabusa campaigns intensified. Hanabusa capitalized on a late endorsement from Case and strong get-out-the-vote efforts to win 53 percent of the vote. The election marked the first ousting of an incumbent Representative in Hawaiian history.⁵ Hanabusa's success stood out among the tide of Republican midterm victories.

Hanabusa took office in the 112th Congress (2011–2013) and joined the Armed Services and Natural Resources Committees. Operating in the minority, Hanabusa focused on supporting Hawaiian labor and infrastructure. She worked alongside Senator Daniel K. Inouye in the 112th Congress to direct grants to Hawaiian veterans and testified before the Budget Committee in favor of federal

funding for the East-West Center and the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.⁶ Hanabusa advocated for passage of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act (NAHASDA) of 2014. Though the bill (H.R. 4277) passed by voice vote in the House, it did not clear the Senate. She also made regular floor speeches in defense of President Barack Obama and his signature Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010.

Hanabusa bested Djou again in 2012, winning 54 percent of the vote.⁷ A month later, Senator Inouye succumbed to respiratory complications. Senator Inouye's staff insisted he had handpicked Hanabusa as his successor, sending a letter to Governor Abercrombie making this wish known. But Abercrombie appointed Lieutenant Governor Brian Schatz to fill Inouye's remaining term. Hanabusa stated that she respected "the process and the governor's right to choose a successor" but hinted she would run against Schatz in the next election.⁸

At the beginning of the 113th Congress (2013–2015), Hanabusa positioned herself as a successor to the legislative interests of Inouye and fellow Senator Daniel K. Akaka. She re-introduced Senator Akaka's bill for Native-Hawaiian self-government.⁹ While Hanabusa increased her congressional profile, she narrowly lost the August primary by 1,769 votes, but a dangerous tropical storm delayed the vote in two precincts and led to a protracted count process.¹⁰ Though Hanabusa originally requested a further delay to recover from the storm, she decided not to challenge the election results a week later.¹¹

At the end of her term in the House, Hanabusa returned to Honolulu to resume practicing law.¹² In 2016, when Congressman Mark Takai announced he would not seek re-election (and subsequently lost his battle with cancer), Hanabusa announced her candidacy for the open seat.¹³ On Election Day, Hanabusa won both the general election to the 115th Congress (2017–2019) with 68 percent of the vote, as well as the special election to the remainder of the 114th Congress (2015–2017) receiving 61 percent of the vote.¹⁴ Hanabusa took her seat on November 14, 2016. She returned to the Armed Services and Natural Resources Committees, and joined the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. She is also a member of the House Democratic Leadership and the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee.

NOTES

- 1 "Biographies—Colleen Hanabusa," 15 January 2011, *National Journal*: 18–19.
- 2 "Hawaii's Race for Congress," 16 April 2010, *Honolulu Advertiser*: A20.
- 3 "Hanabusa Takes Office as a Freshman in a Minority," 5 January 2011, *Honolulu Star Advertiser*: n.p.
- 4 Derrick DePledge, "Hawaii May Hold a Special Congressional Election in May," 5 January 2010, *Honolulu Advertiser*: n.p.; Stu Woo, "U.S. News: Republican Wins Hawaii Seat—Democrats Gird for Fall Rematch, Saying Special-Election Rules Aided Victory," 24 May 2010, *Wall Street Journal*: n.p.
- 5 B. J. Reyes, "Hanabusa Sweeps Districts," 4 November 2010, *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*: n.p.; Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://history.house.gov/Institution/Election-Statistics/Election-Statistics/>; Mark Niese, "Democrat Colleen Hanabusa Wins Hawaii Race for Congress," 15 November 2010, *Asian Reporter*: n.p.
- 6 Hearings before the House Committee on the Budget, *Member's Day*, 112th Cong., 1st sess. (30 March 2011): 75–79.
- 7 Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present"; Derrick DePledge, "Hanabusa Weighs U.S. Senate Run; Rents Apartment in District," 10 June 2011, *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*: n.p.; Sean Sullivan, "The Case for Colleen Hanabusa," 18 December 2012, *Washington Post*: n.p.
- 8 Kyle Trygstad, "Hawaii: Abercrombie Appoints Lt. Gov. Brian Schatz to Senate," 26 December 2012, *Roll Call*: n.p.
- 9 U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, "Hanabusa to Work on Armed Services. Positioning for Asia-Pacific Pivot," 6 January 2013, *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*: n.p.; Richard Borreca, "In Inouye's Absence, State Loses Big Federal Projects," 7 April 2013, *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*: n.p.
- 10 Richard Borreca, "For Hanabusa, Last Days with Inouye Instructive," 20 April 2014, *Honolulu Star Advertiser*: n.p.
- 11 Maya Rhodan, "Hawaii Democratic Senate Primary Finally Ends As Rep. Colleen Hanabusa Concedes," 20 August 2014, *Time*, <http://time.com/3148542/hawaii-democratic-primary-finally-ends-as-rep-colleen-hanabusa-concedes/> (accessed 27 May 2015).
- 12 Duane Shimogawa, "Former Hawaii Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa Forms New Law Company," 26 May 2015, *Pacific Business News*, <http://www.bizjournal.com/pacific/news2015/05/26/former-hawaii-colleen-hanabusa-forms.html> (accessed 27 May 2015).
- 13 Cathy Bussewitz, "Former US Rep. Colleen Hanabusa Announces Congressional Run," 2 June 2016, *Washington Times*, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/jun/2/former-us-rep-colleen-hanabusa-announces-congressi/> (accessed 13 January 2017).
- 14 Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present."



Image courtesy of the Member

Mazie K. Hirono

1947–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE 2007–2013

UNITED STATES SENATOR 2013–

DEMOCRAT FROM HAWAII

An immigrant from Japan who came to Hawaii as a child, Mazie Hirono credits her mother’s bravery for inspiring her decades-long political career. “My mother decided that she needed to get us all away so that we could have a chance at a better life; [she showed] tremendous courage and risk taking. She showed me that one person can make a difference. So my path to the U.S. Senate was a highly unlikely one, but it also points out not only how one person can make a difference, but also what a great country the United States is.”¹

Mazie Hirono was born in Fukushima, Japan, on November 3, 1947, the daughter of Laura Chie Hirono. Laura Hirono left an abusive marriage by escaping with her elder son Roy and daughter Mazie aboard a ship bound for Hawaii. The family lived in a single room in a boarding house, and, at age 10, Mazie Hirono started working to support the family.² Hirono became a naturalized American citizen in 1959, when Hawaii became a state. She later married Leighton Kim Oshima and has one stepchild.

After graduating from Kaimuki High School in Honolulu, she earned a psychology degree at the University of Hawaii in Manoa in 1970.³ She became active in politics by managing several state legislative campaigns.⁴ Hirono earned a juris doctorate degree from Georgetown University in Washington, DC, in 1978. She later served as deputy attorney general of Hawaii in the anti-trust division and worked in a private legal practice. In 1980 she won a seat in the Hawaii state house of representatives, serving until 1994, when she was elected lieutenant governor. Hirono lost a close race for governor in 2002.⁵

In 2006 Hirono entered the Democratic primary to succeed Representative Ed Case of Hawaii, who had announced his bid for a seat in the U.S. Senate. The district—one of two in Hawaii—included parts of Oahu outside Honolulu and the rest of the Hawaiian Islands; the constituency had a large Asian population (28 percent) and had only ever elected Democrats.⁶ With wide name recognition and the backing of national women’s rights organizations, Hirono campaigned on her work in education, land reform, and workers’ compensation, winning the primary with 22 percent of the vote against nine other contenders.⁷ In the general election, she won 61 percent of the vote. She garnered majorities of 70 percent or more in the next two elections.⁸

Joining a new Democratic majority in the 110th Congress (2007–2009), Hirono served on the Education and Labor Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, staying with both throughout her House career.

She also served briefly on the Small Business and the Ethics Committees and the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee.⁹

In the House, Hirono introduced the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, which sought recognition for a Native-Hawaiian government, similar to those of Native Americans on the mainland.¹⁰ The bill passed the House, but died in the Senate.¹¹ Hirono also pursued legislation to help low-income Native Hawaiians purchase homes.¹² She advocated for early childhood instruction, introducing the Providing Resources Early for Kids (PRE-K) Act to provide grants to states to hire more qualified educators, to buy supplies, and for nutrition funding for preschools.¹³ She championed growing American tourism by introducing the bipartisan VISIT USA Act.¹⁴

In 2011, when Senator Daniel Akaka announced his retirement, Hirono entered the primary to succeed him, winning with 57 percent of the vote against former Representative Case.¹⁵ Running on her efforts to protect Social Security and investments in early childhood education and alternative energy, Hirono won 62 percent of the vote in the general election against Republican Linda Lingle.¹⁶

Hirono received seats on the Senate Armed Services, Judiciary, and Veterans' Affairs Committees in the 113th Congress (2013–2015). As the only immigrant serving in the Senate, Hirono threw herself into drafting the Senate's 2013 comprehensive immigration reform legislation, successfully including 11 amendments and prioritizing family unity.¹⁷

During the 114th Congress (2015–2017), Hirono became Ranking Member on the Armed Services Committee's Seapower Subcommittee. She left the Judiciary Committee and took seats on the Intelligence, Small Business and Entrepreneurship, and Energy and Natural Resources Committee—where she served as Ranking Member on the Water and Power Subcommittee. In the 115th Congress (2017–2019), she served as Ranking Member on the National Park Subcommittee. Hirono also moved from the Select Committee on Intelligence back to the Judiciary Committee.¹⁸

NOTES

- 1 Women's Media Center, "A Personal Interview with Mazie Hirono, Hawaii's First Woman Senator," accessed 2 June 2016, <http://www.womensmediacenter.com/feature/entry/a-personal-interview-with-mazie-hirono-hawaiiis-first-woman-senator>.
- 2 "Mazie K. Hirono Bio," Mazie K. Hirono's official campaign website, accessed 8 November 2006, <http://mazieforcongress.com/index.cfm/preset/bio> (site discontinued); *Almanac of American Politics, 2008* (Washington, DC: National Journal Inc., 2007): 511; "About Mazie," on Senator Mazie Hirono's official website, accessed 16 February 2016, <https://www.hirono.senate.gov/about>; *Politics in America, 2010* (Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2009): 309.
- 3 *Politics in America, 2012* (Washington, DC: CQ-Roll Call, Inc., 2011): 297.
- 4 *Politics in America, 2010*: 310.
- 5 *Almanac of American Politics, 2008*: 511.
- 6 *Ibid.*, 510–511; "It's Official: Hirono Enters Race for U.S. House," 28 April 2006, *Honolulu Advertiser*: 3B.
- 7 *Almanac of American Politics, 2008*: 511; Nicole Duran "Primaries in Paradise: Hirono Leads Democratic Field But No Sure Thing," 21 September 2006, *Roll Call*: n.p.
- 8 Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://history.house.gov/Institution/Election-Statistics/Election-Statistics/>.
- 9 *Congressional Directory*, various editions; Garrison Nelson and Charles Stewart III, *Committees in the U.S. Congress, 1993–2010* (Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press, 2011): 757–758; *Congressional Record*, House, 112th Cong., 1st sess. (14 July 2011): H5050.
- 10 See H.R. 505, 110th Cong. (2007); *Congressional Record*, House, 111th Cong., 2nd sess. (23 February 2010): H722; *Congressional Record*, House, 110th Cong., 1st sess. (7 May 2007): H4535.
- 11 See H.R. 862, 111th Cong. (2009) and H.R. 1250, 112th Cong. (2011).
- 12 H.R. 835, 110th Cong. (2007); H.R. 2786, 110th Cong. (2007); *Congressional Record*, House, 110th Cong., 1st sess. (27 March 2007): H3166; *Congressional Record*, House, 110th Cong., 1st sess. (24 July 2007): H8310. The legislation sought to bolster previous laws setting aside land for indigenous Hawaiians—dating back to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1921.
- 13 *Congressional Record*, House, 110th Cong., 1st sess. (18 June 2007): H6589; H.R. 3289, 110th Cong. (2007); H.R. 2655, 110th Cong. (2007); *Politics in America, 2010*: 309.
- 14 H.R. 3341, 112th Cong. (2011).
- 15 "Hirono Announces She Will Run For Akaka's Senate Seat," 19 May 2011, *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*: n.p.; Derrick DePledge, "Case, Hirono Duke It Out" 27 July 2012, *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*: n.p.; DePledge, "Hirono Beats Case" 12 August 2012, *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*: n.p.
- 16 Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present."
- 17 "Immigration," on Senator Mazie K. Hirono's official website, accessed 16 February 2016, <https://www.hirono.senate.gov/issues/immigration>.
- 18 "About Mazie."



Image courtesy of the Member

Ted Lieu

1969–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE 2015–
DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

Ted Lieu was already an experienced legislator when he won election to the western Los Angeles seat in the U.S. House of Representatives vacated by veteran Representative Henry Waxman. A lawyer with technical expertise who shares the immigrant experience, Lieu has made the most of his social media platforms. Upon his election to Congress, he addressed his active communications strategy, “I just give people more and more information, and try to make them look at a situation from a different view.”¹

Ted W. Lieu was born on March 29, 1969, in Taipei, Taiwan, to George and Kerry Lieu.² His family immigrated to suburban Cleveland, Ohio, in 1972, where they sold gifts at flea markets and saved to open a gift store. The business eventually expanded to several locations, with Ted and his siblings often helping out. Lieu graduated from St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland in 1987. He then earned bachelor’s degrees in computer science and political science from Stanford University in Stanford, California, in 1991. Three years later, Lieu completed his law degree at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. From there, he went on to serve as a judge advocate general in the U.S. Air Force from 1995 to 1999. He continues to serve as a colonel in the Air Force Reserve. After leaving the service full time, Lieu moved to Torrance, California, where he practiced law and served as the city’s environmental quality commissioner.³ He and his wife, Betty, a water commissioner, have two children, Brennan and Austin.

Lieu first won elected office in 2002, serving on the city council in Torrance, California. In 2005 he won a special election to the California state assembly, where he served until he won election to the California state senate in 2010. Lieu also ran in the Democratic primary for California state attorney general but fell short against eventual winner Kamala Harris.⁴ As a state senator, he led California’s opposition to the Supreme Court’s *Citizens United* ruling and successfully guided legislation allowing undocumented immigrants to take the state bar exam.⁵

In 2013 longtime Representative Henry Waxman announced his retirement, setting up a scramble for the reliably Democratic coastal Los Angeles district. Eighteen candidates, mostly Democrats, leaped into California’s open primary. Lieu announced his candidacy in January 2014 and obtained the endorsement of both the Democratic Party and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. As the establishment favorite, Lieu received 19 percent of the vote, second only to the leading Republican on the ballot, Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney

Elan Carr.⁶ Advancing to face Carr in the general election, Lieu received the endorsement of the *Los Angeles Times*, which cited his legislative experience as a factor in their decision.⁷ Lieu cruised to victory in November, winning 59 percent of the vote.⁸

Lieu was elected president of his freshman class of Democrats for the 114th Congress (2015–2017).⁹ He received assignments on the Budget Committee and Oversight and Government Reform Committee. In the 115th Congress (2017–2019), he left both committees and joined the Foreign Affairs and Judiciary Committees. He was named a Democratic Assistant Whip in 2017.¹⁰

In keeping with his district, which has many high-tech companies, Lieu prioritizes protection of consumer privacy, advances in cybersecurity, and solutions for climate change. Lieu pushed for better care for homeless veterans and improvements to the Veterans Affairs health care system while opposing privatization, representing pressing concerns in his district. Operating in the minority, Lieu introduced the Quarterly Financial Report Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3116) in July 2015, renewing a study conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, which provides a crucial indicator of the economic health of various industries. The bill passed the House by voice vote and the Senate by unanimous consent, before being signed into law in October 2015.¹¹ Seven different legislative provisions sponsored by Lieu were signed into law during his freshman term in office.

Lieu's family and colleagues describe him as quiet and thoughtful, though he maintains an aggressive social media presence, particularly following the 2016 election. "I will not cede public discourse to anyone," he insisted, stating an obligation to speak out against anyone he viewed as peddling falsehoods on social media.¹²

Lieu won re-election to the House in 2016, winning 66 percent of the vote.¹³

NOTES

- 1 David Mendez, "From Council to Congress: Torrance's Ted Lieu Says He's Ready to Take On National Political Stage," 27 November 2014, *Orange County Register* (CA): n.p.
- 2 Sarah D. Wire, "These Californians All Have Tickets to the State of the Union Address," 12 January 2016, *Los Angeles Times*, <http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-ca-state-of-the-union-san-bernardino-20160112-htmstory.html> (accessed 18 May 2017).
- 3 "Biography," on Congressman Ted Lieu's official website, accessed 10 May 2017, <https://lieu.house.gov/about/full-biography/>.
- 4 Mendez, "From Council to Congress: Torrance's Ted Lieu Says He's Ready to Take On National Political Stage."
- 5 *Almanac of American Politics, 2016* (United States: Columbia Books and Information Services, 2015): 263.
- 6 Asher Klein, "Crowded Race to Replace Waxman in 33rd House District: Elan Carr and Ted Lieu Will Face Off," 26 June 2014, *Orange County Register* (CA): n.p.
- 7 Editorial, "Elections 2014; Ted Lieu for Congress," 26 September 2014, *Los Angeles Times*: A16.
- 8 Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://history.house.gov/Institution/Election-Statistics/Election-Statistics/>.
- 9 Mendez, "From Council to Congress: Torrance's Ted Lieu Says He's Ready to Take On National Political Stage."
- 10 Congressman Ted Lieu, "Rep. Lieu on Appointment as Assistant Whip," press release, 10 January 2017, accessed 18 May 2017, <https://lieu.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-lieu-statement-appointment-assistant-whip>.
- 11 *Congressional Record*, House, 114th Cong., 1st sess (24 September 2015): H6198; Ted Lieu, "Congressman Lieu Statement on Passage of Quarterly Financial Report Reauthorization Act," press release, 22 July 2015, accessed 18 May 2017, <https://lieu.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/congressman-lieu-statement-passage-quarterly-financial-report>.
- 12 Karen Heller, "Ted Lieu Is Out-Tweeting Trump, and It's Making Him a Political Star," 30 March 2017, *Washington Post*, http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/ted-lieu-is-out-tweeting-trump-and-its-making-him-a-political-star/2017/03/30/a087d670-fec2-11e6-8ebe-6e0dbe4f2bca_story.html (accessed 10 May 2017); Steve Lopez, "Trolling the Tweeter in Chief: California Congressman Stands Up to Trump, Using the President's Favorite Weapon," 15 March 2017, *Los Angeles Times*, <http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-lopez-lieu-twitter-resistance-20170315-story.html> (accessed 18 May 2017).
- 13 Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present."



Image courtesy of the Member

Doris Matsui

1944–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE 2005–
DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

Congresswoman Doris Matsui has represented a diverse, urban, and growing district in Sacramento, California, since 2005. In more than a decade in the U.S. House of Representatives, she has gained a reputation as a savvy, pragmatic legislator invested in working with colleagues on a bipartisan basis. Now a senior member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, she has won legislative achievements in health care reform and mental health care, expansion of Internet access to low-income consumers, support for clean technology, and protection of net neutrality. She has been an early leader in practical responses to climate change by working constantly to ensure adequate flood control for Sacramento, which sits at the confluence of two great rivers.

She was born Doris Okada in a Japanese-American internment camp in Poston, Arizona, on September 25, 1944. Her parents, Ichiro and Matsuye Miyamoto Okada met at the Poston War Relocation Center.¹ The family later settled on a farm in Dinuba in California's Central Valley. In 1966 Doris Okada earned a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from the University of California, Berkeley, where she met Robert T. Matsui. The couple married that year and had one son, Brian. In 1978 Robert was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives to represent Sacramento.

In 1992 President-elect William J. (Bill) Clinton appointed Doris Matsui to his eight-member transition board and asked her to serve in the White House as deputy assistant to the President and deputy director of public liaison, a position she held for six years. In 1998 Matsui joined a Washington government relations firm, where she specialized in medical technology, telecommunications, and financial services.²

Robert T. Matsui died on January 1, 2005, from a rare bone marrow disorder, and Doris Matsui won the special election to succeed him a little more than two months later. She received 68 percent of the vote and was sworn into Congress on March 10, 2005. "Despite tragedy and heartbreak, life indeed goes on," Matsui said at her swearing-in, "and I know that somewhere Bob is looking down and smiling."³ She won her next six general re-election bids with 70 percent or more.⁴

Matsui was assigned to the Energy and Commerce Committee in 2008 and currently serves on the Health, Communications and Technology, Environment, and Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittees. Matsui's first committee assignment was to the powerful Rules Committee, where she later

supported Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California in moving key legislation, including the Affordable Care Act and Dodd–Frank financial reform. She served on the Rules Committee through the 111th Congress (2009–2011) and was vice chair of the Rules and Organization of the House Subcommittee in the 110th and 111th Congresses (2007–2011). She sat on the Science Committee in the 109th Congress (2005–2007) and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in the 110th Congress (2007–2009).⁵

Matsui has promoted the arts, humanities, and cultural institutions throughout her career, serving as a member of the Board of Regents for the Smithsonian Institution and as a board member of the National Symphony Orchestra.

Matsui has been a vocal supporter of comprehensive mental health care reform, passing into law the Excellence in Mental Health Act in 2014, landmark legislation that provided for community behavioral health clinics.

Matsui has emerged as a leader in promoting technology jobs in Sacramento and expanding Internet access to low-income consumers. During the 114th Congress (2015–2017), she introduced a bill to support companies developing clean technology to combat climate change.⁶

Matsui is also an advocate for net neutrality. Working alongside Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont, Matsui sought authority for the Federal Communications Commission to prevent Internet service providers from opening “fast lanes” for some content at the expense of other data.⁷

As one of the youngest members of the generation of Japanese Americans interned by their own government during World War II, Matsui has supported efforts to preserve internment sites “as the physical reminder of past inequality.”⁸ While securing anti-terror funding for her district, she also cited America’s history of internment as a warning against potential civil liberties abuses in efforts to combat terrorism. “The government at all levels was blinded by war,” Matsui observed, “and it is imperative that we learn the lesson this moment in history has taught us.”⁹

NOTES

- 1 *Congressional Record*, House, 109th Cong., 2nd sess. (1 March 2006): H479.
- 2 *Politics in America, 2006* (Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 2005): 81.
- 3 Erica Werner, “Doris Matsui Takes Over for Late Husband,” 11 March 2005, *Ventura County Star* (Camarillo, CA): 3.
- 4 Kevin Yamamura, “Matsui Headed to Congress,” 9 March 2005, *Sacramento Bee*: A1; Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://history.house.gov/Institution/Election-Statistics/Election-Statistics/>.
- 5 H. Res. 1256, 110th Cong. (2008); *Congressional Record*, House, 110th Cong., 2nd sess. (10 June 2008): H5126.
- 6 Melanie Turner, “House Passes Matsui Bill that Would Boost U.S. Clean-Tech Industry,” 28 July 2010, *Sacramento Business Journal*: n.p.
- 7 Brian Fung, “Democrats Propose Law putting Brakes on Internet Fast Lanes,” 18 June 2014, *Washington Post*: A13.
- 8 *Congressional Record*, Extension of Remarks, 110th Cong., 2nd sess. (14 February 2008): E196.
- 9 *Congressional Record*, House, 109th Cong., 2nd sess. (1 March 2006): H479. See, for example, David Whitney, “Matsui Backs Boost in Anti-Terror Grants,” 14 June 2007, *Sacramento Bee*: B2.



Image courtesy of the Member

Grace Meng

1975–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE 2013–
DEMOCRAT FROM NEW YORK

As a lifelong resident of Queens, Grace Meng has staked her career on protecting the interests of her New York City constituents. In the state assembly, she became known for focusing on results and putting aside party and personal politics. “That’s the one thing I probably don’t like about politics,” she said during her first congressional campaign, “the focus on the individual. To me, it’s more important to get it done, whether I get the credit for it or not.”¹

Grace Meng was born in Queens, New York, on October 1, 1975, the daughter of immigrants Shiao-Mei and Jimmy Meng, who owned and operated a lumber company.² She graduated from Stuyvesant High School in New York City in 1993 and then attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where she studied Chinese and history. After receiving her BA in 1997, Meng considered teaching but shifted her focus to law. She returned to New York and received her JD from Yeshiva University in New York City in 2002.³ She briefly worked as a public interest lawyer and at a public relations firm before volunteering at her father’s Flushing-area district office after his election as the first Asian-American member of the New York state assembly. Meng led her father’s district office after his election. In 2005 she married Korean-American dentist and professor Wayne Kye, with whom she has two sons, Tyler and Brandon.⁴

In 2008 Meng defeated her opponent, Ellen Young, by 18 percent to win a seat in the New York state assembly.⁵ Meng dedicated her time to constituent services, a priority she continues to pride herself on, given the unique and diverse needs of her congressional district.⁶ She also built a reputation for bipartisanship, stating, “Being the only Asian American in the State Legislature, I’ve had no choice but to reach across the aisle.” Among her key legislative achievements were eliminating the term “Oriental” from most state documents as well as authoring the Reverse Mortgage Act of 2009.⁷ Seven of her bills in the assembly were ultimately signed into law. She easily won re-election in 2010 and was later selected as a delegate to the 2012 Democratic National Convention.⁸

When U.S. Representative Gary Ackerman retired from his district in northern Queens, Meng entered the race for the vacant seat. New York’s 6th Congressional District, home to sizable Chinese and Korean immigrant communities, included a portion of Meng’s assembly district in Flushing. Endorsed by Ackerman and Representative Joe Crowley, she ran on a platform of improving transportation, increasing school funding, and bringing more jobs to the area through tax incentives.⁹ Meng won the primary with 52 percent

of the vote, defeating three other candidates for the nomination.¹⁰ She defeated Republican councilman Daniel J. Halloran III in the general election with 60 percent of the vote, becoming the first Asian-American Member of Congress from New York.¹¹

In the 113th Congress (2013–2015), Meng was appointed to the Foreign Affairs and Small Business Committees. On the latter, she served as Ranking Member on the Contracting and Workforce Subcommittee. Meng won appointment to the prestigious Appropriations Committee at the start of the 115th Congress (2017–2019).

Representative Meng has remained district-focused while serving in Congress. She established the Quiet Skies Caucus to prioritize eliminating noise pollution due to the frequency of flights near her Queens district as well as the Congressional Kids' Safety Caucus.¹² She also sought a National Park Service study to mark historic sites in Queens (H.R. 3222) and was successful in securing its inclusion in the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act.¹³

Meng proved to be an unusually active freshman legislator. She successfully passed legislation through the House amending the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to classify the desecration of cemeteries as a violation of religious freedom, and President Barack Obama signed it into law on August 8, 2014.¹⁴ From her position on the Foreign Affairs Committee, she fought for funding and protection for the State of Israel, reflecting the large Jewish population within her district.¹⁵

Meng won re-election unopposed in 2014, after which Democratic Party leadership selected her as an Assistant Whip.¹⁶ In the 114th Congress (2015–2017), Meng continued to support her district by focusing on small businesses and defending the rights of women and minorities. She has maintained her reputation as an active legislator. She reintroduced her Anti-Spoofing Act that passed the full House during the 113th Congress and successfully shepherded legislation to strike all uses of the term "Oriental" from federal law. President Obama signed it into law in May 2016.¹⁷

Meng won re-election to the 115th Congress with 72 percent of the vote.

NOTES

- 1 David W. Chen, "A Breakthrough Candidate and Potential Star," 27 June 2012, *New York Times*, <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/28/nyregion/grace-meng-is-rising-star-for-asian-new-yorkers.html> (accessed 9 March 2016).
- 2 *Politics in America, 2014* (Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 2013): 677.
- 3 Chen, "A Breakthrough Candidate and Potential Star"; Charles Lam, "Rep. Grace Meng on Civic Engagement, Public Service, and Being Chinese American," 28 February 2013, *Northwest Asian Weekly*, <http://www.nwasianweekly.com/2013/02/rep-grace-meng-on-civic-engagement-public-service-and-being-chinese-american-the-first-asian-american-congressperson-from-the-east-coast-speaks-with-the-asian-weekly/> (accessed 14 March 2016).
- 4 "Grace Meng, Wayne Kye," 12 June 2005, *New York Times*: 14.
- 5 Sally Goldenberg and Maggie Haberman, "Silver's Golden in Primary Win," 10 September 2008, *New York Post*: 15; Jonathan P. Hicks, "In Assembly Seat's Past, a Hint of Musical Chairs," 11 September 2008, *New York Times*, <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/12/nyregion/12flushing.html> (accessed 10 March 2016).
- 6 Daniel Edward Rosen, "Lost in Translation Pol: Non-English Signs an Emergency Risk," 14 April 2010, *Daily News* (New York): 44; Leigh Remizowski, "At a Glance," 21 April 2010, *Daily News* (New York): 28.
- 7 Chen, "A Breakthrough Candidate and Potential Star."
- 8 Joe Anuta, "Meng, Stavisky Win Dem Delegate Spots," 30 January 2012, *TimesLedger* (New York): n.p.
- 9 Joe Anuta, "Meng Explains Bid for House," 25 May 2012, *TimesLedger* (New York): n.p.
- 10 Joe Anuta, "Meng Clinches Dem Primary," 27 June 2012, *TimesLedger* (New York): n.p.
- 11 Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://history.house.gov/institution/election-statistics/election-statistics>.
- 12 Grace Meng, "Airplane Noise in Queens," 30 August 2013, *New York Times*: 18.
- 13 *Congressional Record*, House, 113th Cong., 2nd sess. (15 September 2014): H7494–7495.
- 14 *Congressional Record*, House, 113th Cong., 2nd sess. (28 May 2014): H4850–4851.
- 15 Dmitriy Shapiro, "N.Y. legislator Grace Meng an Emerging Pro-Jewish Voice in Congress," 3 June 2014, *Washington Jewish Week*, <http://www.jns.org/latest-articles/2014/6/3/ny-legislator-grace-meng-an-emerging-pro-jewish-voice-in-congress#.U49byiiGdot> (accessed 11 March 2016).
- 16 Congresswoman Grace Meng, "Meng Named Assistant Whip," press release, 15 April 2015, accessed 14 March 2016, <https://meng.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/meng-named-assistant-whip>.
- 17 Madina Toure, "Meng Bill Seeking Removal of 'Oriental' Term Now Law," 30 May 2016, *TimesLedger* (New York): n.p.



Image courtesy of the Member

Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen

1947–

DELEGATE 2015–

REPUBLICAN FROM AMERICAN SAMOA

Amata Coleman Radewagen became the first woman elected to represent the territory of American Samoa in 2014. She holds the title of “Aumua” (orator/talking chief) from the village of Pago Pago in American Samoa’s capital. Radewagen has dedicated her career to bridging the gap between Washington, DC, and the Pacific Islands. Notably, Radewagen campaigned unsuccessfully for 10 straight congressional elections before winning. When asked about her perseverance, she responded, “My Dad’s motto, ‘*Sulu o le tautua*,’ remains what I stand for, ‘Torch of service.’”¹

Amata Coleman was born on December 29, 1947, to Nora Stewart Coleman and Peter Tali Coleman, the first popularly elected governor of American Samoa.² One of 13 children, she counts Pago Pago, American Samoa, as her hometown. She attended Sacred Hearts Academy, a Roman Catholic preparatory school for girls in Honolulu, before earning a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Guam in 1975. She completed additional studies at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, and Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California. She married Fred Radewagen, with whom she has three children: Erika, Mark, and Kirsten.

Radewagen built up a résumé of pro-democracy international work on advance teams for presidential trips during the George H. W. Bush administration. Beginning in 1992, she taught democratic governance to professionals and politicians in countries such as Kazakhstan, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, and Morocco. During this time, Radewagen was diagnosed with breast cancer; she began advocating on behalf of cancer awareness in 1993. She also served as chief diplomatic correspondent for the *Washington Pacific Report* from 1984 to 1997.³ Beginning in 1997, Radewagen became a mainstay in the U.S. House of Representatives, working for Philip Crane of Illinois before moving to the office of J. C. Watts of Oklahoma in 1999. She then joined the staff of the House Republican Conference, where she worked until 2005, at which point she returned to Pago Pago to work as a community activist.⁴

Radewagen first ran for the office of Delegate from American Samoa in 1994 against incumbent Democrat Eni F. H. Faleomavaega. Though she only received 21 percent of the vote, Radewagen continued to campaign for the position in every following election. She failed to secure the Republican nomination in 1996 and 2000 and ran with no declared party affiliation in 1998.⁵ In 2014 Faleomavaega’s declining health and long absences from the public eye became

a concern for constituents.⁶ A known quantity after years of campaigning, Radewagen stumped on improving infrastructure and education for the territory's youth. The Pacific island was still recovering from the effects of the 2008 global recession and a 2009 tsunami; reliant on federal aid, constituents were eager for a more active voice in Washington. She went on to win 42 percent to Faleomavaega's 31 percent.⁷

Upon entering the 114th Congress (2015–2017), Radewagen was appointed to three committees: Natural Resources, Veterans' Affairs, and Small Business. She was vice chairman of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs and chairman of the Small Business Subcommittee on Health and Technology. In the 115th Congress (2017–2019), she continued serving on the same three committees and as the chairman of the Small Business Committee's Health and Technology Subcommittee. Her years as a Hill staffer helped her form working relationships with other Republicans and provided her more support for legislation favoring the territory.

Radewagen's primary agenda has been to preserve the political will of the people of American Samoa. In June 2015, she supported an appellate court judge's decision not to grant birthright citizenship to people of the territory, insisting that American Samoans "should have the final say in matters concerning their political status."⁸ Later that year, she pushed to delay a planned minimum wage increase in the territory, explaining that the island's economy had yet to recover from the 2008 recession. The bill (H.R. 2617) passed the House by voice vote and became law in October 2015.⁹ In late 2016, she submitted a bill (H.R. 6452) to ensure access to Pacific fisheries for the territories following the regulations of international convention. This bill, supporting a crucial industry in American Samoa, passed the House by unanimous consent and was signed into law by President Barack Obama on December 16, 2016.¹⁰ Radewagen has been a consistent voice for veterans' affairs, a key constituency in American Samoa, which maintains the highest rate of enlistment in the U.S. armed forces.¹¹

Radewagen handily won re-election in 2016 with 74.5 percent of the vote against four independent competitors, none of whom garnered more than 15 percent of the vote.¹²

NOTES

- 1 "Aumua Amata Launches Her Campaign for Delegate Seat," 9 June 2014, *Samoa News*, <https://samoanews.com/aumua-amata-launches-her-campaign-delegate-seat> (accessed 14 November 2014).
- 2 Eric Pace, "Peter Coleman, 77, Governor of American Samoa," 1 May 1997, *New York Times*: 16.
- 3 "Aumua Amata Radewagen's Biography," Project Vote Smart, accessed 8 May 2017, <https://votesmart.org/candidate/biography/128380/aumua-amata-radewagen#.WRCgGLXyU>.
- 4 "Aumua Amata Launches Her Campaign for Delegate Seat."
- 5 Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://history.house.gov/Institution/Election-Statistics/Election-Statistics/>.
- 6 Timothy Cama, "American Samoa Delegate Loses Seat," 5 November 2014, *The Hill*, <http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/house-races/223113-american-samoa-delegate-loses-seat> (accessed 1 May 2017); "Am. Samoa: Candidates Line Up for Run at Faleomavaega's Seat; Memorial Day: Faleomavaega Again a No Show," 26 May 2014, *Hawai'i Free Press*, <http://www.hawaiifreepress.com/ArticlesMain/tabid/56/ID/12720/Am-Samoa-Candidates-Line-up-for-Run-at-Faleomavaegas-Seat.aspx> (accessed 1 May 2017).
- 7 Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present"; "Aumua Amata Launches Her Campaign for Delegate Seat."
- 8 *Almanac of American Politics, 2016* (United States: Columbia Books and Information Services, 2015): 2041.
- 9 *Congressional Record*, House, 114th Cong., 1st sess. (28 September 2015): H6281–H6284; Public Law 114-61, 129 Stat. 545 (2015).
- 10 *Congressional Record*, House, 114th Cong., 2nd sess. (8 December 2016): H7540; Ensuring Access to Pacific Fisheries Act, Public Law 114-327, 130 Stat. 1974 (2016).
- 11 *Congressional Record*, Extension of Remarks, 114th Cong., 1st sess. (16 November 2015): E1623.
- 12 Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present."



Image courtesy of the Member

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

1955–

DELEGATE 2009–

DEMOCRAT FROM NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Representing an archipelago of 14 volcanic islands, some active, 15 time zones from Washington, DC, Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan is the first Delegate to represent the Northern Mariana Islands in the U.S. House of Representatives. Early in his first term, Sablan, who prefers to go by Kilili, noted, “We’ve been a commonwealth for 33 years, and we became citizens in 1986. We’ve got a lot of catching up to do.”¹

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, born on the island of Saipan on January 19, 1955, is the third of seven children born to Jesus Diaz Sablan and Victorina Camacho Sablan.² Sablan graduated from Marianas High School before attending the University of Guam, Armstrong University at Berkeley, and the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He served in the United States Army from 1981 to 1986. Sablan and his wife, Andrea, have six children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

In 1976, when Sablan was 21 years old, President Gerald R. Ford approved Public Law 94-241, formalizing a covenant between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States. The new commonwealth government was established on January 9, 1978, and three years later Sablan began working for the first governor, Carlos S. Camacho. Sablan hailed from a political family—his uncle, Vicente D. Sablan, and his grandfather, SN. Sablan, both served as mayors of Saipan—and, like his older relatives, he gravitated to public service. In 1982 Sablan, running as a Democrat, was elected to the commonwealth legislature, where he served until 1986. After his stint in the legislature, Sablan worked as an aide to Senator Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii and later to the commonwealth governor. Sablan was appointed executive director of the Commonwealth Election Commission in 1999.³

In May 2008, more than 30 years after the original covenant, President George W. Bush signed Public Law 110-229, granting the islands a Delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives. Sablan left his position with the election commission and entered a nine-way race for the new seat.⁴ In the early 1980s, he was chairman of the Northern Marianas Democratic Party, but Sablan had grown frustrated with what he considered a highly unorganized local Democratic Party and opted to run as an independent instead. His biggest competition came from Republican Pedro A. Tenorio, the incumbent Washington representative.⁵ Sablan edged out Tenorio by 357 votes, winning 24 percent of the total vote. In 2010 he won re-election in a four-way contest with

43 percent of the vote, and he has not dipped below 65 percent of the vote in subsequent elections.⁶

Once in Congress, Sablan caucused with House Democrats and was assigned to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Education and Labor for the 111th Congress (2009–2011). He has served on Natural Resources for his entire House career. In the 112th Congress (2011–2013), Sablan left Education and Labor and, for one term, had a seat on the Agriculture Committee. He returned to the renamed Education and the Workforce Committee for the 113th, 114th, and 115th Congresses (2013–2019). In the 115th Congress (2017–2019), Sablan was also assigned to the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Focusing on the basic needs of his constituents and seeking parity for the Northern Marianas in federal law, Sablan has introduced more than 40 bills during his career. His first bill conveyed submerged land rights to the Northern Mariana Islands.⁷ "The Northern Mariana Islands is the only U.S. jurisdiction that does not have ownership of the submerged lands three miles off its shores," he noted. Sablan's bill passed the House in the 111th and 113th Congresses, and a companion measure (S. 256) was enacted into law in 2013.

In the 112th Congress, as a member of the Agriculture Committee, he added a provision to the 2014 Agricultural Act to create a pilot program to bring the Marianas into the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. He also authored legislation to increase federal support for education in the Northern Marianas and other U.S. insular areas.⁸ The necessary change in funding formulas for low-income island students was successfully included in the 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act.⁹

Sablan makes it a point to educate Congress on living conditions in the Northern Marianas. About half of his constituents are below the federal poverty line and lack basic necessities, such as reliable access to fresh drinking water. "[Y]ou're lucky enough to get two to three hours of water a day," he said on the House Floor in 2009. "And not just that, but, you can't drink that water anyway."¹⁰ Since then, with Sablan's support, federal funding for water infrastructure in the Marianas has increased sevenfold.

NOTES

- 1 Kris Kitto, "This Man Is No Island," April 20, 2009, *The Hill*: n.p.; quotation in *Congressional Record*, House, 111th Cong., 1st sess., (14 May 2009): H5657.
- 2 "Full Biography," on Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan's official website, accessed May 21, 2012, <http://sablan.house.gov/about-me/full-biography>; "About," Kilili for Congress Facebook Page, <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Kilili-for-Congress/112096108825189?sk=info> (accessed 9 May 2012).
- 3 "Progress in the Pacific," 15 November 1986, *Christian Science Monitor*: 19; "Full Biography"; *Politics in America, 2012* (Washington, DC: CQ-Roll Call, Inc., 2011): 1090.
- 4 *Congressional Record*, House, 111th Cong., 1st sess. (24 March 2009): H3785; "Full Biography."
- 5 From 1978 to 2008, the Northern Mariana Islands elected a "resident representative to the United States." This representative was not a Member of the House of Representatives but served as an advocate for the Northern Mariana Islands. Frank S. Rosario, "Sablan Leads CNMI's U.S. Congress Delegate Race," *Pacific Magazine*, www.pacificmagazine.net (accessed November 5, 2008).
- 6 *Politics in America, 2010* (Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 2009): 1130; *Politics in America, 2012*: 1090; Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://history.house.gov/Institution/Election-Statistics/Election-Statistics/>.
- 7 H.R. 934, 111th Cong. (2009); H.R. 670, 112th Cong. (2011); and H.R. 573, 113th Cong. (2013).
- 8 H.R. 428, 113th Cong. (2013); H.R. 851, 114th Cong. (2015). The legislation to increase federal support for the insular territories is listed in the Agricultural Act of 2014, Public Law 113-79, 128 Stat. 816 (2014).
- 9 See Section 1014 of the Every Student Succeeds Act, Public Law 114-95, 129 Stat. 1802 (2015).
- 10 *Congressional Record*, House, 111th Cong. 1st sess. (14 May 2009): H5656–H5657.



Image courtesy of the Member

Robert C. (Bobby) Scott

1947–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE 1993–
DEMOCRAT FROM VIRGINIA

Robert C. (Bobby) Scott was born in Washington, DC, on April 30, 1947, the son of Charles Waldo Scott, a doctor, and Mae Hamlin Scott, a teacher. He was raised in Newport News, Virginia. When Virginia officials resisted court-ordered public school integration in the late 1950s, Scott's parents sent him to Groton School, a college preparatory school in Massachusetts.¹ He graduated with a bachelor of arts in liberal arts from Harvard University in 1969, and he earned a juris doctor degree at Boston College four years later.² While in law school, Scott served in the Massachusetts National Guard and later in the U.S. Army Reserve.

After law school, Scott returned to Newport News and opened a private law practice. From 1975 to 1980, he served as president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In 1977 he won election to the Virginia house of delegates. He served for five years until his election to the Virginia senate, where he served for another decade. Scott is divorced and has no children. He is a member of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in Newport News.

Scott first attempted to win national office in 1986 when he challenged two-term Republican incumbent Herbert H. Bateman for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. The campaign garnered wide name recognition for Scott, although he lost the general election by a margin of 56 to 44 percent.³

Following the 1990 Census, Virginia underwent reapportionment that increased its congressional delegation from 10 to 11. In order to comply with the Voting Rights Act, the Virginia assembly created a majority-black district spanning from southeast Richmond into portions of Newport News and Norfolk at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay in southeastern Virginia. Scott, who had represented portions of the new district in the state legislature, ran for the seat. In the Democratic primary, he received two-thirds of the vote, defeating two African-American women, one a member of the house of delegates and the other chair of the state retirement system. In the general election, he prevailed handily over Republican candidate Daniel Jenkins, winning 79 percent of the vote.⁴

Scott was the first black elected official since John Mercer Langston (1890–1891) to represent Virginia and, because of Scott's Filipino ancestry on his mother's side of the family, the first American of Filipino ancestry to serve as a U.S. Representative.⁵ Despite court-ordered redistrictings, Scott has never

been seriously challenged in his 12 re-election bids. He has never received less than 66 percent of the vote and has run unopposed in multiple elections.⁶

When Scott was sworn in to the 103rd Congress (1993–1995), he was appointed to three committees: Judiciary, Education and Labor, and Science, Space, and Technology. He served on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee for two years (1993–1995) and continued to serve on the Judiciary Committee until the conclusion of the 113th Congress (2013–2015). Scott continues to serve on the Education Committee, though he took a leave of absence during the 108th Congress (2003–2005) to serve on the prestigious Budget Committee. During the 114th and 115th Congresses (2015–2019), he has served as Ranking Member on the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Congressman Scott has earned a reputation as a forthright progressive, opposing efforts to amend the Constitution to outlaw flag desecration and promote prayer in public schools.⁷ He is also a strong advocate of reforming the juvenile justice system and reducing crime by using prevention and intervention strategies. Scott has consistently fought against employment discrimination in organizations that use federal funds. In 1997 Scott was a leading proponent of expanding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which requires every state to provide a free, appropriate public education for children with disabilities. He opposed the war in Iraq and was a strong supporter of the Affordable Care Act.

Scott also cosponsored the Death in Custody Reporting Act, signed into law in 2000, which requires states to report the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement or in the process of arrest.⁸ Scott reintroduced the bill each Congress following its 2006 expiration and secured passage in 2013.⁹ He also played a crucial role in the passage of the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010, which reduced mandatory minimum sentences in many drug cases.¹⁰

In 2015 Scott was one of the four primary negotiators of the Every Student Succeeds Act, which reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act for the first time in 13 years, replacing the No Child Left Behind Act.¹¹

NOTES

- 1 *Politics in America, 2006* (Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 2005): 1058; “About Bobby,” on Representative Bobby Scott’s official website, accessed 4 April 2016, <http://bobbyscott.house.gov/about/biography>.
- 2 “Robert C. Scott,” *Contemporary Black Biography*, vol. 23 (Detroit, MI: Gale Group, 1999).
- 3 Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://history.house.gov/Institution/Election-Statistics/Election-Statistics/>; *Politics in America, 2006*: 1058.
- 4 Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present”; “Robert C. Scott,” *Contemporary Black Biography*.
- 5 “About Bobby.” Thirteen Filipinos served as Resident Commissioners for the nearly 50 years of Philippine annexation by the United States after the Spanish-American War in 1898. None of the Resident Commissioners were American citizens.
- 6 Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present”; *Politics in America, 2008* (Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 2007): 1044.
- 7 *Politics in America, 2006*: 1057.
- 8 “About Bobby”; *Congressional Record*, House, 106th Cong., 2nd sess. (24 July 2000): H6737; H.R. 1800, 106th Cong. (1999); Death in Custody Reporting Act, Public Law 106-297, 114 Stat. 1045 (2000).
- 9 H.R. 2908, 110th Cong. (2007); H.R. 3971, 110th Cong. (2008); H.R. 7227, 110th Cong. (2008); H.R. 738, 111th Cong. (2009); H.R. 2189, 112th Cong. (2011); H.R. 1447, 113th Cong. (2013). Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2013, Public Law 113-242, 128 Stat. 2860 (2014).
- 10 “The Fair Sentencing Act Corrects a Long-time Wrong in Cocaine Cases,” 3 August 2010, *Washington Post*: A14; Fair Sentencing Act, Public Law 111-220, 124 Stat. 2372 (2010).
- 11 “Scott Statement on Senate Passage of Bipartisan Bill to Fix No Child Left Behind,” press release, accessed 1 May 2016, <http://democrats-edworkforce.house.gov/media/press-releases/scott-statement-on-senate-passage-of-bipartisan-bill-to-fix-no-child-left-behind>.



Image courtesy of the Member

Mark Takano 1960–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE 2013–
DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

Mark Takano won election in 2012 as the first openly gay person of color in Congress. A high school teacher with three decades of experience, Takano focuses on education benefits for veterans from his position on the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mark Takano was born December 10, 1960, in Riverside, California. The son of Japanese Americans, his parents and grandparents were uprooted from their California and Washington state homes and sent to internment camps during World War II. After the war, they resettled in Riverside County.¹ Takano attended La Sierra High School in Riverside, graduating as class valedictorian in 1979. He received an AB degree in government from Harvard University in 1983. Takano planned to attend law school but decided to try teaching in the Boston suburbs. He earned his teaching certificate from the School of Education at the University of California, Riverside, upon returning to California to teach English and social studies at Riverside's Rialto High School. Takano also served on the board of trustees at Riverside Community College. Eventually becoming the board's longest-serving member, he twice served as its president.²

Takano first ran for a Riverside County-based U.S. House of Representatives seat in 1992, losing to Republican Representative Ken Calvert by 519 votes. He lost a rematch against Calvert in 1994.³ In 2012 redistricting created a new U.S. House district encompassing the western parts of Riverside County, including a cache of traditionally Democratic voters.⁴ Takano announced his candidacy in July 2011.⁵ In California's new open primary, wherein the top two candidates advance to the general election regardless of party affiliation, he emerged in second place behind Republican Riverside County supervisor John Tavaglione in a five-candidate race.⁶ Takano stressed job creation and training as well as education reform in the general election and defeated Tavaglione with 59 percent of the vote.⁷

Takano's initial committee assignments included Science, Space, and Technology and Veterans' Affairs. Midway through the 113th Congress (2013–2015), he picked up a seat on the Education and the Workforce Committee. Takano now serves as the Vice Ranking Member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and was its Ranking Member in the 114th Congress (2015–2017). Much of his legislation originated from this committee work. His first bill in Congress was the VetSuccess Enhancement Act, which extended the period during which veterans with service-connected disabilities could enroll in the Veterans Administration training and rehabilitation programs.⁸

Student veterans are a particular focus for Takano. His Work-Study for Student Veterans Act allowed veteran students to get paid jobs on campuses or in Department of Veterans Affairs facilities.⁹ The Veterans Education Outcomes Act, introduced in March 2014, attempted to help the federal government better track data on veterans through school and subsequent employment.¹⁰ “In order to know if we are properly serving our student veterans and how we can improve this service, we need to see the numbers,” Takano said.¹¹ He also introduced the Warriors’ Peer-Outreach Pilot Program Act, which granted paid work-study jobs for veterans using the GI Bill for peer outreach and mentoring programs.¹² Takano was a cofounder of the bipartisan Work for Warriors Caucus to promote awareness for a California-based program to reduce unemployment among National Guard members.¹³ His GI Bill Fairness Act ensures that wounded Guard members receive full GI Bill benefits.¹⁴

Takano often weighs in on broader education policy. He seeks legislation increasing transparency of charter schools and protecting students who attend for-profit colleges from fraudulent practices. His Job Skills for America’s Students Act encouraged partnerships between businesses and schools, awarding tax credits for offering technical and skill training.¹⁵ Takano’s Helping Schools Protect Our Children Act provided training for teachers to spot signs of sexual abuse.¹⁶

Takano is also an advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights. His support for immigration reform is often couched in a call to defend binational LGBT families. Takano cosponsored legislation ensuring that veteran benefits be awarded to LGBT families even in states where gay marriage was not recognized. “Our veterans have sacrificed so much for our country, and all our returning heroes deserve to enjoy the same benefits and freedoms, no matter who they love or where they live,” he declared.¹⁷ Takano also introduced the Social Security and Medicare Parity Act, which would close loopholes in the Social Security Act to guarantee survivor benefits to same-sex couples.¹⁸

Mark Takano won re-election in 2014 and 2016 with 57 and 65 percent of the vote, respectively.¹⁹

NOTES

- 1 “Biography,” on Congressman Mark Takano’s official website, accessed 4 March 2016, <http://takano.house.gov/about/biography>.
- 2 *Almanac of American Politics, 2014* (Washington, DC: National Journal Inc., 2013): 254.
- 3 Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, “Election Statistics, 1920 to present,” <http://history.house.gov/Institution/Election-Statistics/Election-Statistics/>.
- 4 *Almanac of American Politics, 2014*: 254; Phil Willon, “Democrats See New Chances in Inland Empire,” 16 March 2012, *Los Angeles Times*: A1.
- 5 “CA: Takano Plans Run in New District,” 5 July 2011, *The Frontrunner*: n.p.
- 6 “Tavaglione, Takano Discuss Issues in Debate for Election to New 41st District,” 11 October 2012, *Riverside County Record* (CA): 3.
- 7 *Almanac of American Politics, 2014*: 254; Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present.”
- 8 H.R. 844, 113th Cong. (2013).
- 9 H.R. 1453, 113th Cong. (2013).
- 10 H.R. 4248, 113th Cong. (2014).
- 11 “Veterans Education Outcomes Act Introduced by Democrat/Republican,” 20 March 2014, *Riverside County Record* (CA): 13.
- 12 H.R. 3056, 113th Cong. (2013).
- 13 Congressman Mark Takano, “Rep. Mark Takano and Rep. Paul Cook Form Bipartisan Work for Warriors Caucus,” press release, 8 November 2013, <https://takano.house.gov/newsroom/press-releases/>.
- 14 H.R. 1141, 114th Cong. (2015).
- 15 H.R. 1271, 113th Cong. (2013).
- 16 H.R. 5127, 113th Cong. (2014).
- 17 “Takano Helps Introduce Bipartisan Bill To Protect LGBT Veterans and Families,” 28 November 2013, *Riverside County Record* (CA): 3.
- 18 H.R. 5182, 113th Cong. (2014); H.R. 2025, 114th Cong. (2015).
- 19 Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present.”

*First Term Asian
and Pacific Islander
American Members
of the 115th Congress*



Image courtesy of the Member

Kamala Harris

UNITED STATES SENATOR
DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

Congressional Committees: Budget, Environment and Public Works, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Select Committee on Intelligence

Born: October 20, 1964, Oakland, California

Family: Doug Emhoff (spouse)

Education: BA, Howard University, Washington, DC, 1986; JD, University of California, Hastings College of the Law, San Francisco, California, 1989

Military: N/A

Political Career: District attorney of San Francisco, California, 2004–2011; attorney general of California 2011–2017

Professional Career: Lawyer

Publications: *Smart on Crime: A Career Prosecutor's Plan to Make Us Safer* (San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2009).

SOURCES

Online *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774–Present*: <http://bioguide.congress.gov>; individual Member offices.

The closing date for this volume was July 1, 2017.



Image courtesy of the Member

Pramila Jayapal

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
DEMOCRAT FROM WASHINGTON

Congressional Committees: Budget, Judiciary

Born: September 21, 1965, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Family: Steve (spouse); Janak, Michael (children)

Education: BA, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, 1986; MBA, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, 1990

Military: N/A

Political Career: Washington state senate, 2015–2016

Professional Career: Community organizer, immigration nonprofit founder, public health advocate

Publications: *Pilgrimage to India: A Woman Revisits Her Homeland* (Seattle, WA: Seal Press, 2001).



Image courtesy of the Member

Ro Khanna

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

Congressional Committees: Armed Services, Budget

Born: September 13, 1976, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Family: Ritu (spouse)

Education: AB, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, 1998; JD, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, 2001

Military: N/A

Political Career: Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2009–2011; member, California Workforce Development Board, 2012–2016

Professional Career: Lawyer, professor

Publications: *Entrepreneurial Nation: Why Manufacturing is Still Key to America's Future* (New York: McGraw-Hill Education, 2012).



Image courtesy of the Member

S. Raja Krishnamoorthi

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
DEMOCRAT FROM ILLINOIS

Congressional Committees: Education and the Workforce, Oversight and Government Reform

Born: July 19, 1973, New Delhi, India

Family: Priya (spouse); Vijay, Vikram, and Sonia (children)

Education: BA, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, 1995; JD, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2000

Military: N/A

Political Career: Board of Illinois Housing Development Authority, 2005–2007; Illinois special assistant attorney general, 2006–2007; deputy state treasurer of Illinois, 2007–2009; vice-chair of the Illinois Innovation Council, 2014–2015

Professional Career: Small business executive, attorney

Publications: N/A



Image courtesy of the Member

Stephanie Murphy

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
DEMOCRAT FROM FLORIDA

Congressional Committees: Armed Services, Small Business

Born: September 16, 1978, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Family: Sean (spouse); Liem and Maya (children)

Education: BA, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, 2000; MSFS, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, 2004

Military: N/A

Political Career: N/A

Professional Career: Consultant, businesswoman, foreign affairs specialist (U.S. Department of Defense), college faculty member

Publications: N/A



“THE HISTORY OF APAs
IN CONGRESS CONTAINS
MANY OF THE SAME THEMES
THAT RESONATE IN THE
LARGER CHRONICLE OF
AMERICAN DEMOCRACY.”

Introduction to Current Asian
and Pacific Islander American Members